

Message Text

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72

ACTION EB-11

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6379

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UNCLAS LONDON 14629

FOR: BRUSSELS FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, UK

SUBJ: CIVAIR - NEW NOISE STANDARDS FOR UK AIRLINERS
DISCUSSED

1. THE UKG HAS CIRCULATED TO UK AIRLINES AND AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURERS A CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT SOLICITING INFORMATION AND INDUSTRY VIEWS ON GOVERNMENT'S PLAN TO INTRODUCE TOUGHER NOISE STANDARDS. GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL IS TO REQUIRE UK-REGISTERED AIRLINERS TO MEET ICAO ANNEX 16 STANDARDS IN TWO STAGES. IN FIRST STAGE, NEW PRODUCTION OF EXISTING TYPES WOULD HAVE TO CONFORM TO NEW STANDARD BY JANUARY 1, 1976. IN SECOND STAGE, OLDER JETS ALREADY IN SERVICE WOULD HAVE TO BE FITTED WITH HUSH KITS BY JAN. 1, 1979. GOVERNMENT WANTS TO DISCUSS PROPOSAL WITH AIRLINES AND MANUFACTURERS TO LEARN HOW MANY OLDER SUBSONIC JETS WILL NEED HUSH KITS (MANY OLDER JET AIRCRAFT NOW OPERATING WILL BE RETIRED BY 1979), HOW MUCH IT WILL COST TO INSTALL HUSH KITS AND TO OPERATE WITH THEM, AND UNCLASSIFIED

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WHETHER NOISE REDUCTIONS TO BE ACHIEVED ARE WORTH COSTS

INVOLVED. ALSO TO BE DISCUSSED IS IMPORTANT QUESTION OF WHO WILL PAY THE COSTS. IN THIS CONNECTION, GOVERNMENT IS STARTING FROM POSITION THAT AIRLINES MUST PAY WHILE AIRLINES ARE MAINTAINING THAT GOVERNMENT OUGHT TO BEAR BOTH PART OF INCREASED OPERATING COSTS AS WELL AS CAPITAL COSTS INVOLVED. FOLLOWING CONSULTATION ON THE QUESTION, IT IS GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO INTRODUCE NEW LEGISLATION ABOUT APRIL 1.

2. GOVERNMENT IS ESTIMATING THAT TO FIT HUSH KITS TO TOTAL OF 96 TRIDENT AND BAC-111S ON BRITISH REGISTRY WILL COST 4 MILLION POUNDS IN DEVELOPMENT CHARGES, 20 MILLION POUNDS IN CAPITAL COSTS AND AN ADDITIONAL 60 MILLION POUNDS IN OPERATING COSTS OVER AN EIGHT YEAR PERIOD. IF ALL VC-10, 707, 727 AND 737'S OPERATED BY BRITISH CARRIERS ARE TO BE INCLUDED (AND PRESUMABLY THIS IS UKG INTENTION), COSTS WILL PROBABLY EXCEED 100 MILLION POUNDS, INVOLVING NEARLY 300 JETS.

3. SUPERSONIC AIRLINER, CONCORDE, WOULD BE EXEMPTED FROM NEW NOISE STANDARDS UNDER GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL.

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